

ALTERNATING MONOTONIES

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A word containing the same letter in every other position for a sequence of three or more is here called an Alternating Monotony. For example, MONOTONY contains the letter O in the second, fourth and sixth positions.

If the letter is a vowel, it generates Vocalic Alternating Monotonies. These are the most prevalent and contain the longest illustrations. The longest with Y is the 3-Y SYZYGY. As the other vowels are more common, it is not surprising to find them in longer sequences. There are the 5-A TACAMAHACA, the 5-E TELEMETERED and the 5-I VISIBILITIES. The less common vowel O gives the 6-O MONOGONOPOROUS. Surprisingly, the fairly rare U is the champion with the 8-U HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAA.

Consonantal Alternating Monotonies are less accomodating. We have to stretch for a 3-B with BABY BLUE and a 3-G with GO GAGE. Other consonants yield many three-letter monotonies; we give only the shortest or the most familiar example: COCKCROW, DIDODECAHEDRON, LILYLIKE, AMOMUM, NINON, PUPIPARA, SUSUS, TUTUTNI and OVOVIVIPAROUS. These barely meet the definition of Alternating Monotonies, for they have but three repeating letters. We can do better with the 4-R RIRORIRO. If one allows hyphenated words there is also a 4-T from the entry PITOT-STATIC TUBE. However, the best example of all is the doubly-intertwined KUKUKUKU.

All the above are from Webster's Third Unabridged Dictionary. Can these be improved upon using other contemporary dictionaries?